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**An Archaeological Strip, Map and
Sample Excavation to the Rear of Hall
Farm, Mere Road, Waltham on the
Wolds, Leicestershire, LE14 4AN
(NGR SK 803 252)**



Richard Huxley

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Excavation to the Rear of Hall Farm, Mere Road,
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**LE14 4AN
NGR SK 803 252**

Richard Huxley

For: M Duffin Builders Limited

Approved by:

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Summary

Planning permission has been granted for a housing development comprising eight single storey units on land to the rear of Hall Farm, Mere Road, Waltham on the Wolds. An initial evaluation highlighted early Roman archaeology in the form of pits and gullies, mostly in the eastern and southern parts of the site. In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), a ‘strip, map and sample’ excavation was subsequently undertaken in these areas to mitigate any damage to buried archaeological remains which might occur from groundworks associated with the new development. The archaeology was found to be predominantly of the Late Iron Age to early Roman period, with part of a large enclosure and ring gully on the eastern edge of the site. Industrial waste, in the form of fuel ash, hearth lining and heated limestone blocks, was found within these features and the pits surrounding them. Accompanying the industrial activity, the pits revealed evidence of farming and several shallow parallel gullies projecting from the large enclosure may represent part of a contemporary field system. The evidence indicates that the site is on the fringes of a small rural settlement or farmstead, which is mostly located beneath Mere Road and the field to the east.

Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological ‘strip map and sample’ excavation carried out by ULAS in March 2016 at Land to the Rear of Hall Farm, Mere Road, Waltham on the Wolds (NGR: SK 803 252). The work was commissioned by M Duffin Builders Limited ahead of the planned development of eight single-storey units. According to Condition 16 of the planning permission, no demolition/development was to commence until a programme of archaeological work, informed by an initial phase of trial trenching (as detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation) had been implemented to ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording of any possible remains. The field evaluation of the site in January 2016 (Huxley 2016) revealed evidence for transitional Late Iron Age to early Roman activity

suggestive of a rural settlement in the eastern part of the site. The Principal Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, considered an appropriate mitigation strategy would be a targeted strip based on development impacts surrounding the eastern and southern trenches.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The proposed development is located in a prominent position on the northern edge of the village of Waltham on the Wolds, approximately 7km north-east of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. The development is bounded by Mere Road to the east and the A607 to the west, with the site occupying a triangular-shaped area at the junction of the two roads. The proposed development site is open grassland which was previously used as an equestrian exercise paddock. The land was covered with matting and sand to provide a suitable surface for the horses. The site is approximately 0.45 hectares in size and lies at an approximate height of 170m aOD. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates the bedrock geology consists of Northampton sand formation – sandstone, limestone and ironstone deposited during the Jurassic period. The natural substratum encountered during the evaluation was a yellow-brown clay with lenses of orange-red sand and inclusions of ironstone, sandstone and small fragments of limestone.



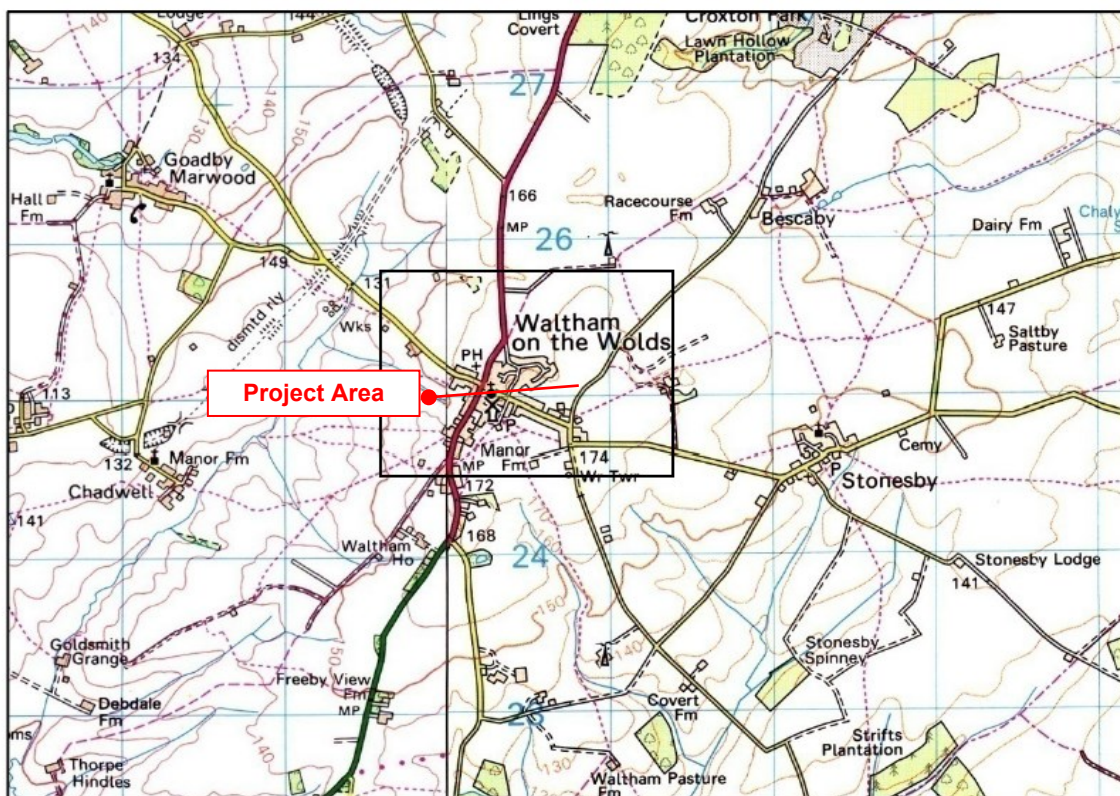


Figure 1: Location of Waltham on the Wolds and the project area (from Ordnance Survey Licence number© Crown copyright 2010. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495.)



Figure 2: Proposed Development Area



Figure 3: Proposed development (provided by client)

Archaeological and Historical Background

The name 'Waltham' derives from 'weald' (woody) and 'ham' (town), while the word 'wold' is from the Saxon word meaning 'hill or high place' (Nichols 1795, 379). According to the Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire and Rutland (HER) there are no records of prehistoric features within the village; however an undated cropmark of a rectangular enclosure (**MLE4191**) is visible to the west of the development area and this may represent activity from this period. Locally made Roman pottery was found at a property on the High Street (**MLE4201**), its presence suggesting nearby occupation during the Roman period. A Roman road passes through the village on a north-west to south-east alignment following the line of the High Street and Goadby Road (**MLE3814**). This road links the small Roman towns of Thistleton and Goadby Marwood and probably continues to Margidunum in south Nottinghamshire (Liddle 2002, 1). The road joins the Drift (also known as Sewstern Lane) with the Salt Way, which runs between Six Hills and Grantham.

The village core has been deduced by R.F. Hartley (**MLE9114**). At the time of Domesday lands in Waltham belonged to Hugo de Grentemaisnell (who owned much of Leicestershire). From Hugo the land devolved to the Earls of Leicester. The greatest part of the town belonged to nearby Croxton Abbey (Nichols 1795: 379), north-east of the village. There is documentary evidence for a medieval market (**MLE4200**). Henry III granted a weekly market in the village on a Thursday and an annual fair on the 8th September. Nichols remarks that the small market no longer occurs in his day (late 18th century) but there is still a fair held on 19th September 'for horses, horned cattle, hogs and goods of all sorts' (Nichols 1795, 382). During the fair anyone who wanted to brew beer could sell it and many made it just to give away.

The Church of St. Mary Magdalene (**MLE4183**) has origins in the Saxon-Norman period, but most of the fabric dates to around 1300. It contains a Norman octagonal font (**MLE4194**) and there is a well associated with the building, possibly post-medieval in date (**MLE4195**). The medieval manorial complex is located approximately 500m to the south-east of the site (**MLE4205**). Approximately 700m to the south-west of the site are the remains of a large dam used to retain the millpond (**MLE4182**).

Vertical air photographs show earthwork remains in the village at grid reference (SK803 248) to the south-east of the proposed development site. The lane to the old windmill continues as a hollow way and there are faint traces of earthworks between this and the main road, including the foundations of a substantial building 50m south-west of the windmill (Hartley 1987: 15).

Hall Farm is an impressive farmhouse building, Grade II Listed (EH ID **190344**), fronting onto Melton Road. The farmhouse dates to the mid-late 19th century and it was formerly part of the Duke of Rutland's estate.

Waltham on the Wolds seems to have been primarily agricultural. The Leicester Advertiser remarks that farming was the only industry of the village and by the mid-1950s those that did not work on the land tended to work in Melton Mowbray.

Archaeological field evaluation of the site by ULAS in January 2016 on behalf of M Duffin Builders Ltd comprised the examination of six 30m by 1.8m trenches (see figure 4). These revealed evidence for Roman activity of the 1st century AD. Three trenches contained several gullies and pits and there was evidence of small-scale iron working. Environmental remains

suggested that crop processing and consumption occurred in the vicinity. The archaeological work indicated a small rural settlement or farmstead in the eastern and southern part of the site (Huxley 2016).

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the archaeological work was:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To produce an archive and report any results.

Within the stated project aims, the principal objective of the recording was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, and significance of the heritage assets within their local and regional context.

The academic research objectives for the project were formulated with reference to: *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight et al. 2012) and *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006).

The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012)

Early Roman artefacts from the evaluation are an indication of Roman activity. Therefore, the excavation may contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may also identify trade links and economy.

Medieval (Lewis 2006; Knight et al 2012)

The area lies close to the medieval village core and medieval earthworks and may contribute to the study of rural medieval settlement and East Midlands Research Strategy 6.7.7.2 (Knight et al. 2012: 94; Lewis 2006).

Methodology

The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (Buckley 2016) and adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) Code and conduct (2014) and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (2014). The Leicestershire County Council *Guidelines and Procedures for Archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland* were adhered to. An accession number/site code was obtained prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts.

The project involved the control and supervision of overburden removal by an experienced professional archaeologist to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains. Work commenced with the reopening of trenches 1 and 3 followed by stripping the area to establish the extent of the archaeology. The stripping continued until a buffer zone with no archaeological deposits was established.

Topsoil and overburden were removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision in order to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds which

would be disturbed by groundworks associated with the development. Archaeological deposits were sample-excavated by hand as appropriate in order to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. All finds and samples were treated in an appropriate manner and where appropriate cleaned, marked and conserved following the recognised best practice.

A photographic record of the investigation was prepared illustrating the archaeological remains encountered and general shots of the archaeological operation mounted. Measured drawings of all archaeological features were prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights were taken as appropriate. Sections of any excavated archaeological features were be drawn at an appropriate scale. All sections were levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark. The location of the excavation was surveyed using a GPS linked to a hand-held computer.



Figure 4 Location of trial trenches within the wider landscape setting

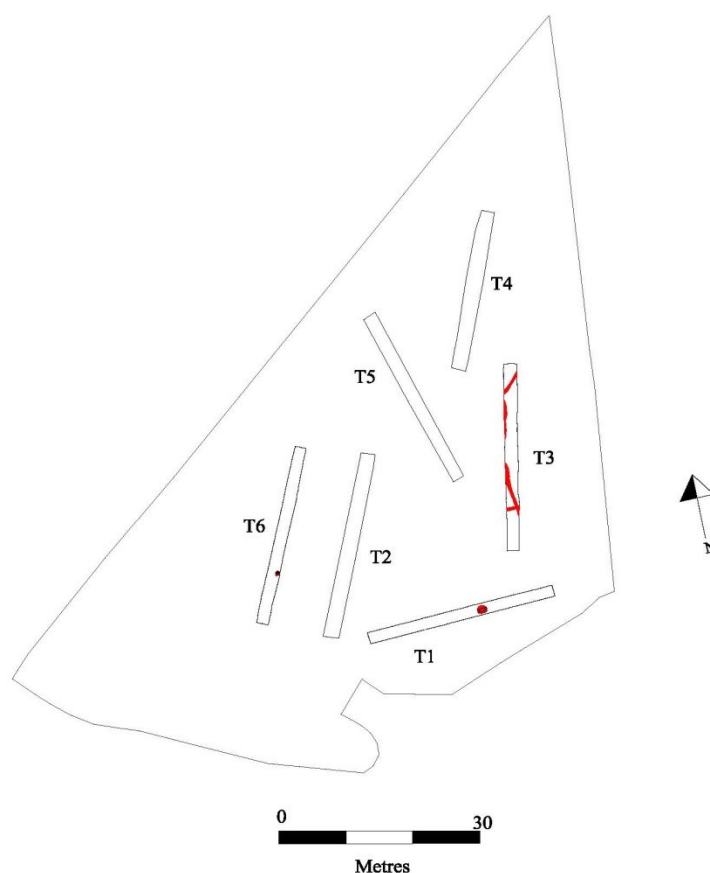


Figure 5: Location of the trenches and archaeology revealed during the evaluation.

Results

The site was stripped commencing with trench 3, then the entire eastern part of the site and continuing to the south in the area surrounding trench 1. The stripping exposed archaeology covering just over a third of the site and the area was opened until parts of trenches 2, 4 and 5 were exposed. The gullies found in trench 3 continued for several metres with one curving towards the south-east corner and probably forming part of a large enclosure. A small ring gully was also found at the north-eastern edge of site and several pits were located on the outside of this and the large enclosure. To the east of these discrete features (close to the existing tree and hedge line) several areas of naturally formed disturbance were apparent, which was found to be caused by bioturbation. The subsoil in this area contained modern pancheon ware pottery. To the south of the large enclosure several pits were also found. The stripping revealed areas of naturally formed disturbance such as tree bowls and tree throws (as indicated from the evaluation), which were occasionally found to have artefacts incorporated within them.



Figure 6: Stripping the eastern part of site

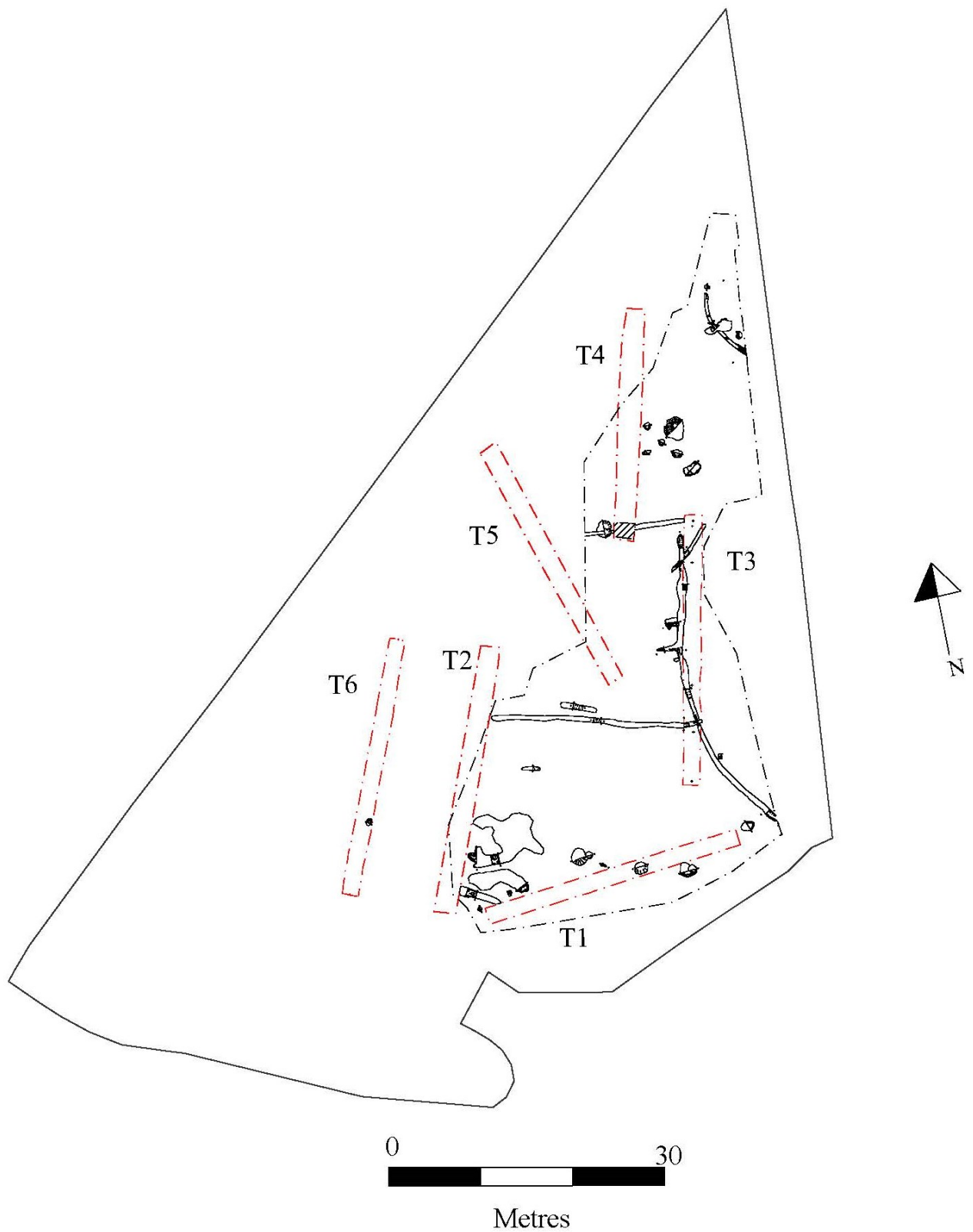


Figure 7: Site plan showing the features revealed within the evaluation trenches and the surrounding area

Ring gully



Figure 8: Ring gully in the north-eastern corner of site

In the north-eastern corner of site, part of a ring gully was exposed measuring 8.28m long. This area of site suffered from much natural disturbance in the form of tree throws, tree bowls and root marks. The machining was also hampered by trees with Tree Protection Orders on them limiting the area which could be exposed. The ring gully was found to have two cuts at the edge of excavation (section 5.02 in figure 9) called [124] and [126]. Cut [124] was the earliest and measured 0.6m wide by 1.4m long and 0.28m deep. The sides had a moderate slope and the feature had an angular 'V'-shaped base. The cut was filled with a mid yellow/grey-brown silty sand with a few small pebbles and flecks of charcoal. Gully [124] was truncated on the southern edge with shallower gully [126], which probably represents a re-cut. This cut measured 3.94m long by 0.45m wide and 0.18m deep and contained moderately sloping sides with a concave base. [126] was filled with a mid greyish-brown sandy silt with small pebbles, flecks of charcoal and finds including early Roman pottery, bone and heated limestone.

The north-western edge of the ring gully was excavated and found to contain a single cut called [133]. This cut had moderately sloping concave sides, a concave base and measured 4m long, by 0.34m wide and 0.1m deep. It was filled with a mid greyish-brown sandy silt with inclusions of ironstone and had artefacts including Iron Age pottery, bones (from a horse and intermediate sized mammals), fuel ash and limestone that had been heated on one side (see figure 8). Cut [133] became increasingly shallower to the north and it is unclear if the northern end of the feature is a deliberate terminal or if it has been truncated. Post-hole [135] measured 0.64m long by 0.39m wide by 0.18m deep and was located just north of the ring gully. It was oval in

shape with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. The feature was filled with a mid yellow-brown sandy silt with inclusions of ironstone. This post-hole may represent part of a north-facing entrance into the ring gully.



Figure 9: Finds from within Ring gully [133].

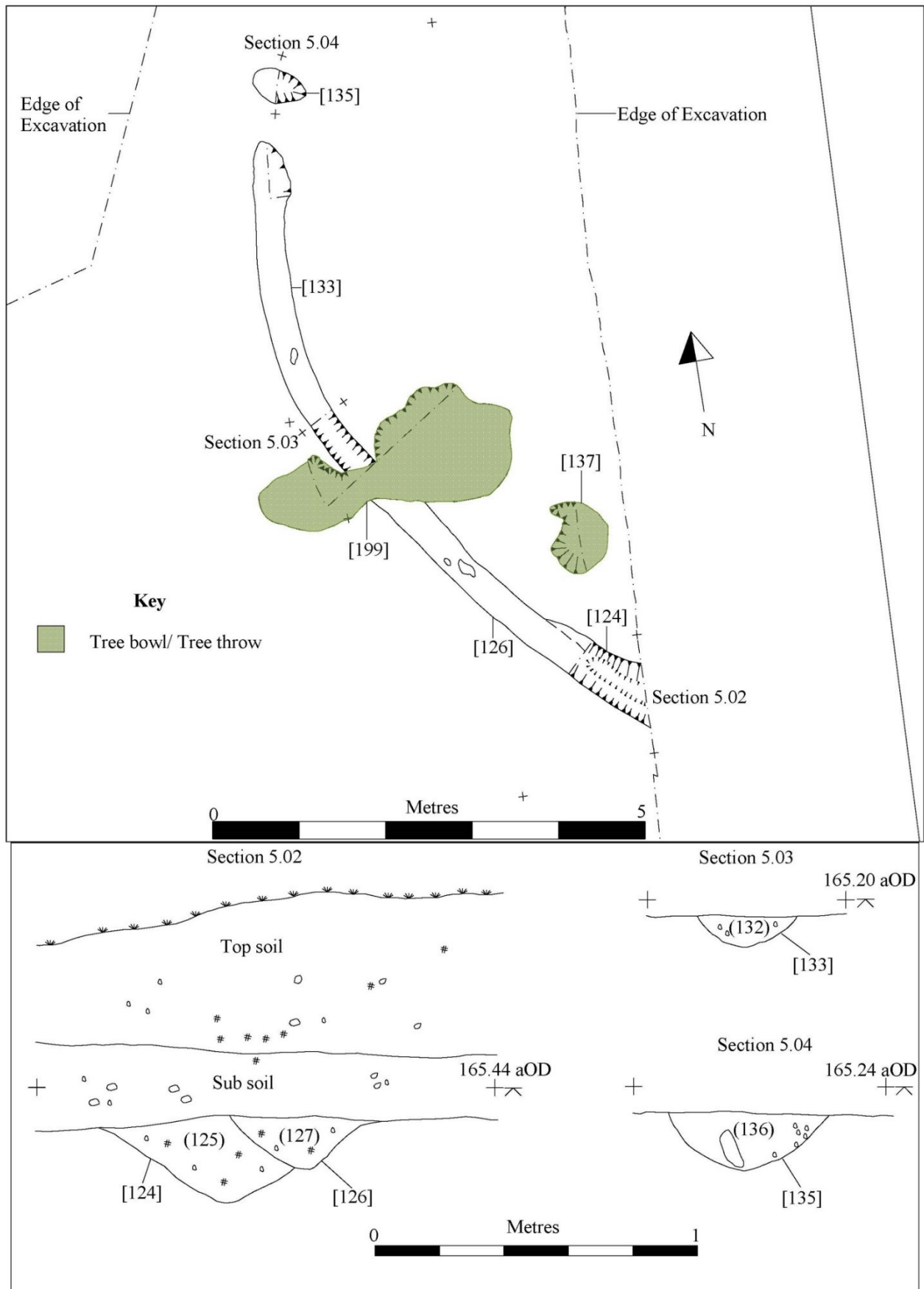


Figure 10: Plan and sections of the Ring gully.



Figure 11: Ring gully cut [124] and re-cut [126].

Due to the size of the cut and similarity in fills it appears likely that cut [133] (along the north-western edge of the ring gully) is the same as re-cut [126]. The original cut [124] appears to have been extended or modified. The ring gully mirrors the shape of the large enclosure to the south and pottery indicates both enclosures are contemporary with each other.

Two features in this area were interpreted as natural, primarily due to their irregular shape in plan and their irregular undulating bases. Feature [137] was located on the south-eastern edge of the ring gully and measured 0.7m long by 0.8m wide and 0.13m deep. The cut was an irregular oval shape, which had the appearance of a tree bowl with an irregular base due to the position of roots. It was filled with a mid greyish-yellow brown sandy silt and was sterile except for a few pebbles. Feature [199] was shaped like two irregular ovals measuring 3m long by 1.4m wide and disturbed the western edge of the ring gully. The base was also undulating and ranged from 0.05-0.1m deep. The feature was filled with a homogeneous mid yellow-brown silty sand, which included a few small pebbles. This disturbance probably represents a tree throw or a felled tree sometime during the post-Roman period.

Large Enclosure and Associated Features

Originating in the south-east corner of site, a large curvilinear gully was revealed measuring 34.39m in length and probably representing part of a large enclosure. To the south, the gully appeared to be well-formed and regular in shape, with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. The gully in this part (called [110] and [120]) ranged from 0.6-0.7m wide and 0.2-0.3m deep. The gully was filled with a mid to dark grey-brown silty clay, which occasionally had orange-yellow patches and inclusions of charcoal and ironstone. The gully was found to contain mid to late 1st-century pottery. To the east of [120], a single post-hole was revealed and this represents the only internal feature. Post-hole [173] was oval in shape, with shallow concave sides and a concave base. The cut measured 0.44m long, by 0.42m wide, by 0.13m deep and was filled with a friable mid grey/orange brown silty clay. A few tiny specks of fuel ash were noted in the fill, which appeared to be a consistent trait with the Late Iron Age and early Roman activity across the site.



Figure 12: Enclosure gully in the south-east corner of site.

The northern half of the enclosure sees a change to the relatively regular shape visible in the south, with variations in both the width and depth of the cut. During the evaluation the northerly extent of the feature was only partially visible within the trench and called [119]. The cut was found to resemble an oval shape, which had steeply sloping sides and contained large pieces of fuel ash. The irregularity in this part of the enclosure is highlighted with cut [139], which was found to vary in depth from 0.06-0.28m along its length (see sections 6.14 and 6.15 in figure 13). The changes in depth occurred in conjunction with changes in the feature's width and this could represent either a variation in digging or possibly a series of earlier pits that have been joined together. The fills of the enclosure at this point were very homogeneous and

composed of a mid yellow-brown mixture of sandy silt and silty clay. Distinguishing any relationship was very difficult and the only finds from [119] or [139] comprised fuel ash.

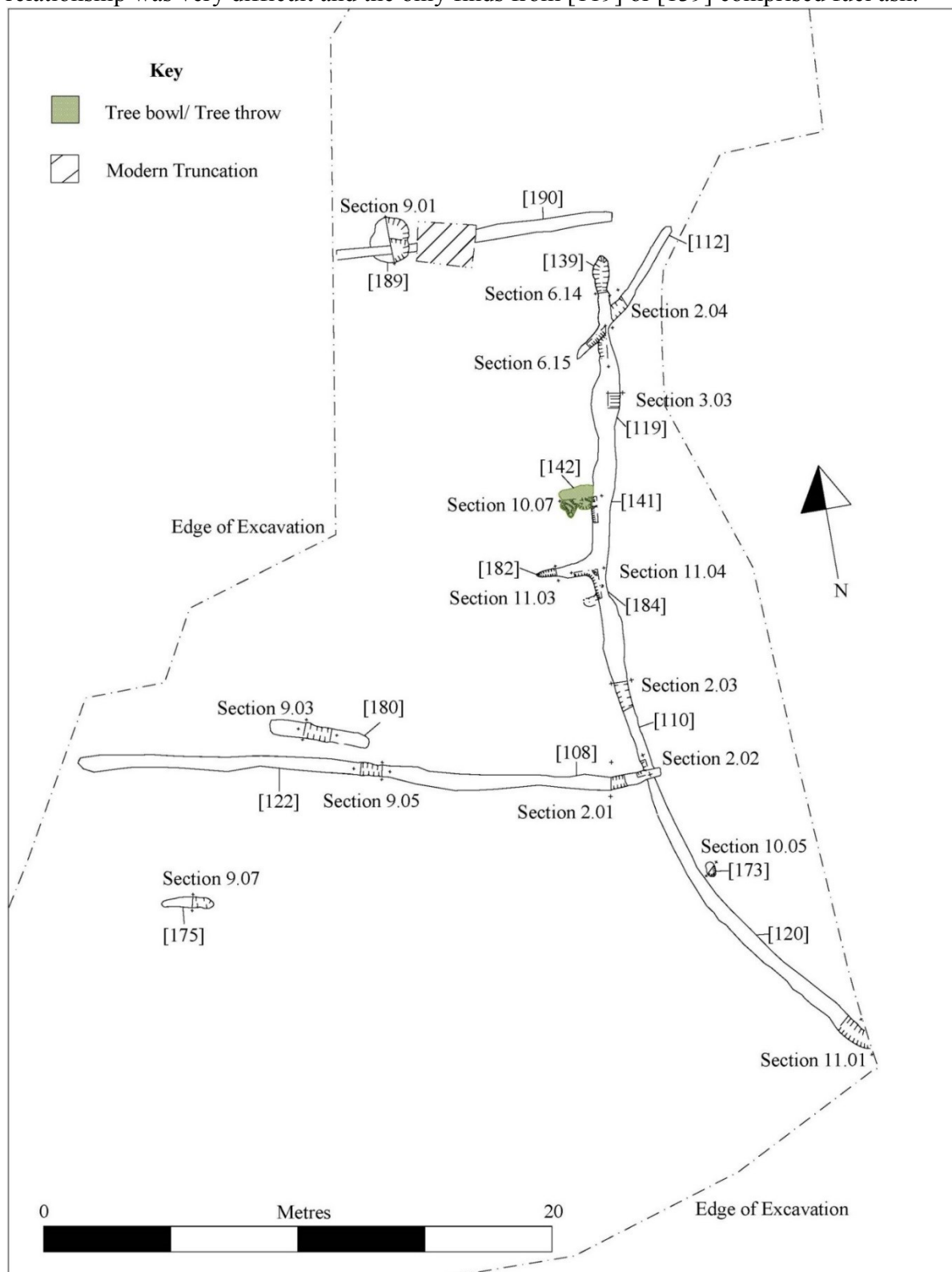


Figure 13: Plan of large enclosure and associated linear features

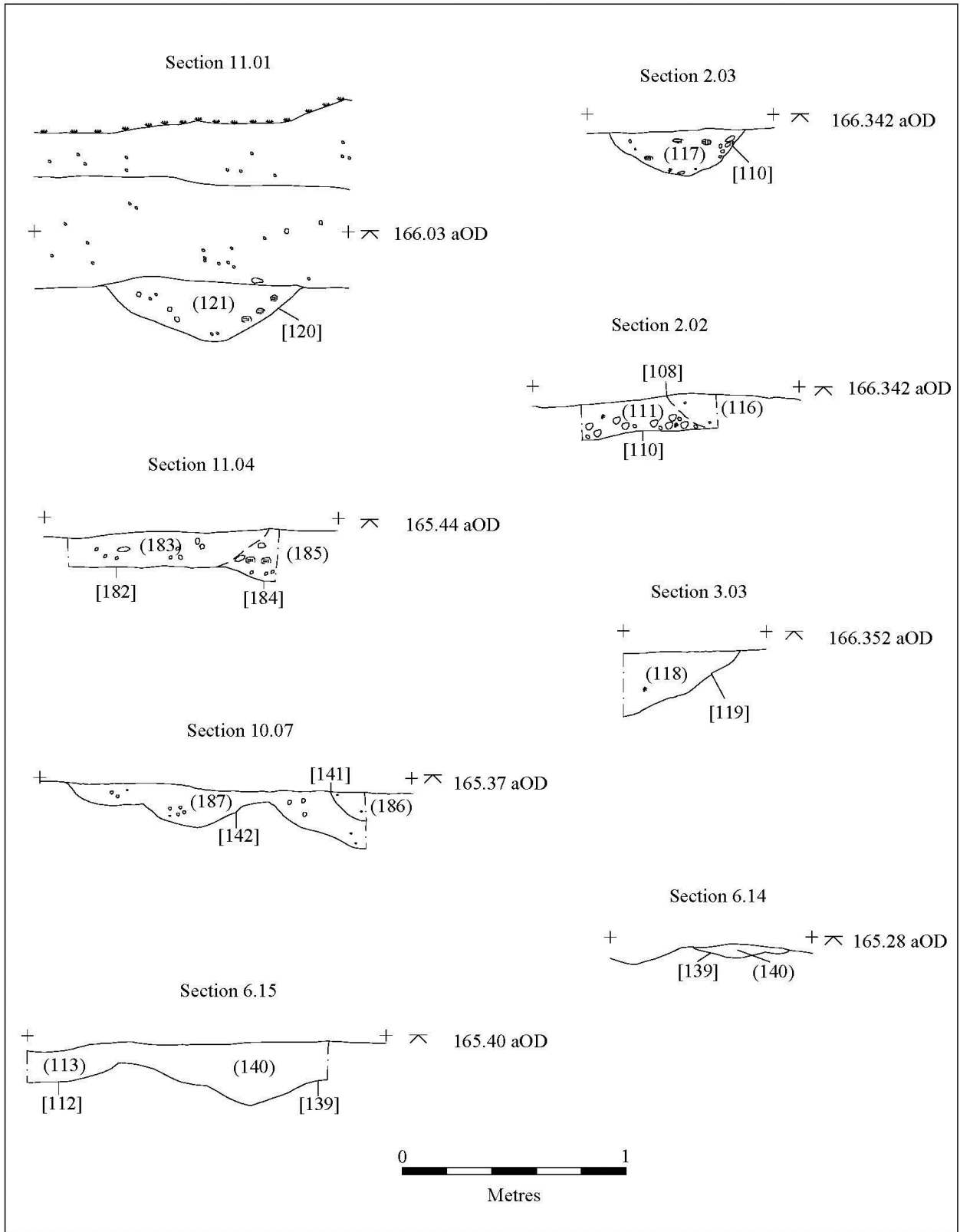


Figure 14: Sections from the large enclosure



Figure 15: Intersection of gully [112] and [139] highlighting the irregular shape of [139].

Several features were found to interact with the western edge of the large enclosure. The earliest was truncated by the enclosure and probably represents a tree bowl. In plan, Feature [142] was ovoid, with irregular sides and an undulating base probably formed by root action (see plate 2). The fill was a light yellow-brown sandy silt with inclusions of ironstone. Within this deposit a flint flake was recovered, however despite it containing an artefact the feature is consistent with having a natural origin.

Gully [108] was orientated east to west and was found during the evaluation. The stripping indicated that the feature extended an additional 20m to the west, but no further to the east. The relationship with the large enclosure was not clear, however a subtle change in colour suggested it was a later feature (section 2.02 figure 13). Despite [108] appearing to be later than the enclosure it is clear that it does not penetrate the enclosure and seems to be respecting it as a boundary. Additionally the pottery found from [108] (at the intersection with the enclosure) suggests the gully is contemporary with the early Roman period. The gully was found to become increasingly shallower to the west (called [122] at this point) and measured only 0.11m deep at section 9.05 (see figure 15). The cut ranged from 0.38-0.5m wide and had moderately sloping sides with a concave base. The gully was filled with a mid greyish or orangey brown silty clay with inclusions of sand and ironstone.

Approximately 5.5m to the south of [122] the shallow remains of gully [175] was found, measuring just 2.06m long by 0.36m wide and 0.07m deep. This gully was filled with a mid grey/orange brown silty clay and appears to be orientated east to west. Cut [175] resembled [122] in shape and the composition of the fills were very similar. To the north of [122] another very shallow linear feature was found called [180]. This feature was poorly defined and

measured 0.55m wide by 0.08m deep and approximately 3.95m long. The cut had shallow concave sides with a concave base and was filled with a mid orange-brown silty clay, which appeared to have disturbance from roots at the base. This feature was parallel to gully [122] and could represent the very shallow remains of a plough scar or furrow.

Approximately 7m north of [122] the shallow remains of another gully orientated east to west was found joining the western edge of the large enclosure. Gully [182] measured 2.21m long by 0.27m wide and 0.08m deep. The gully had shallow concave sides, a concave base and was filled with a mid orange-brown silty clay, which was very similar to the fill of the enclosure at this point. Like [108], gully [122] did not enter the large enclosure and seemed to respect it as a boundary. The relationship between the two features is uncertain and it is possible they are contemporary. Burnt stone and daub was found in the large enclosure, called [184] at this point.

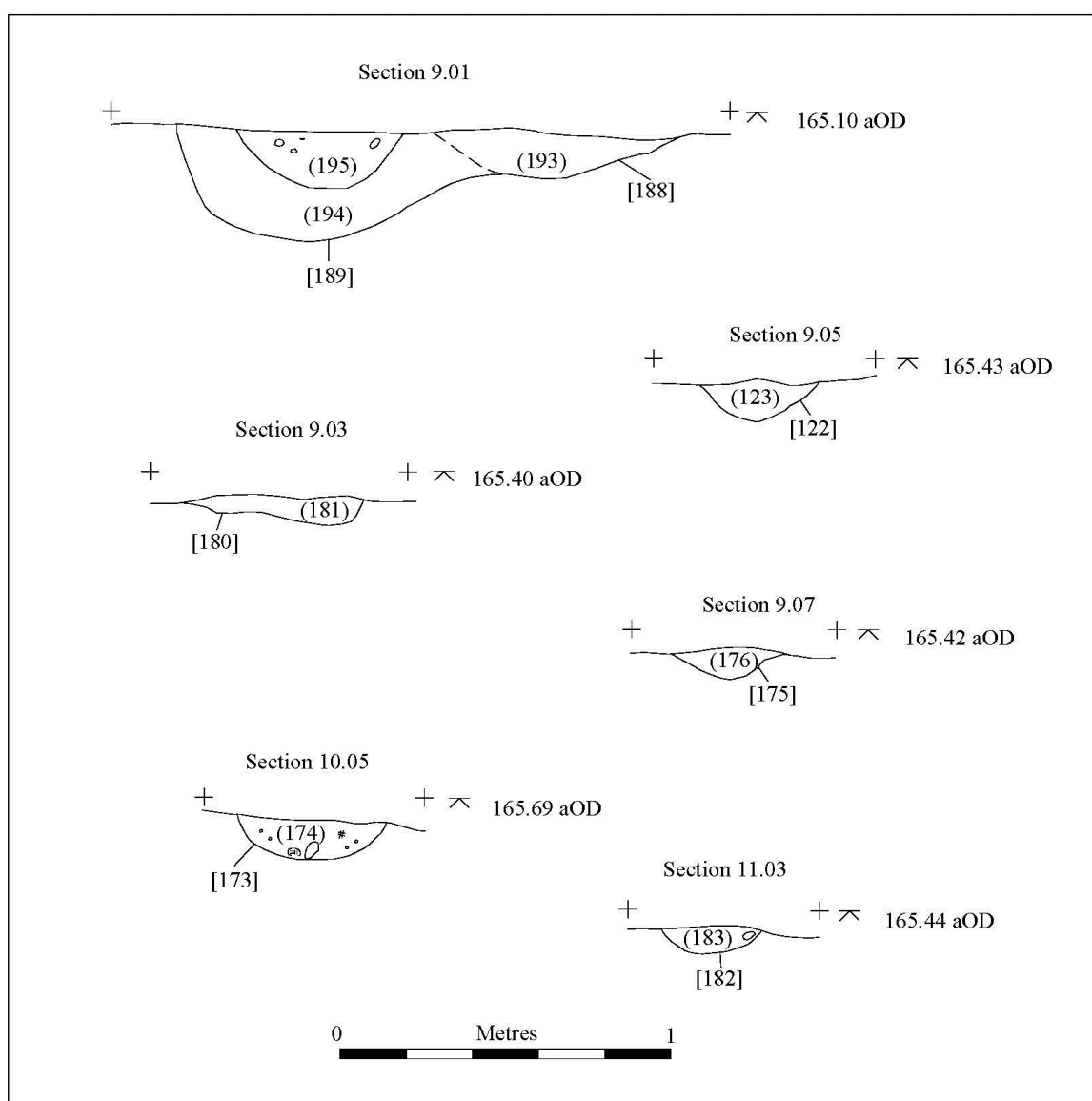


Figure 16: Sections from the gullies and post-hole associated with the large enclosure.

During the evaluation, gully [112] was found orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment close to the northern end of the large enclosure in Trench 3. The stripping showed that the

feature became shallower and did not continue any further to the north-east, but did extend 2.17m to the south-west. Cut [112] had moderately sloping sides with a concave base measuring 0.36-0.5m wide and 0.13-0.3m deep. The fill was a mid grey/yellow brown mixture of sandy silt and clay, which contained a fragment of early Roman pottery. The relationship with the large enclosure is uncertain due to the similarity of the fills and it is possible that both features are contemporary. Gully [112] was on a different orientation to gullies [122], [175] and [182] and did not appear to respect the large enclosure as a boundary. It is possible that [112] belongs to a later phase of activity and the pottery found in the fill was deposited residually within it.

Approximately 13m north of gully [182], a third parallel east to west gully was found called [190]. This gully measured 10.94m long by 0.32m wide and ranged from 0.12-0.02m deep. The feature was filled with a light orange/yellow brown silty clay which contained fuel ash. This gully was truncated by a dump of modern bricks and rubble at the point where Trench 4 was placed and because of this it was not observed during the evaluation. Although [190] continued to the east it was revealed to be shallowing increasingly and was not visible in Trench 3. Gully [190] was found to truncate oval pit [189], which measured 1.42m long by 0.95m wide and 0.33m deep. The pit had moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base and was filled with a mid orange/grey brown silty clay containing fuel ash. Pit [189] was also truncated on its eastern edge by oval pit [188]. This pit had shallow concave sides and a flat base measuring 1.52m long by 0.70m wide and 0.14m deep. The fill was composed of a mid orange-brown sandy clay, which also contained fuel ash. These two pits were located near to a number of discrete features located in the northern part of the site.

Discrete Features to the North



Figure 17: Inter-cutting pits [144] and [146].

Several pits and post-holes were revealed in the northern part of the site, positioned between the ring gully and the large enclosure. The largest of these features was pit [177], which measured 2.35m long by 2.53m wide and 0.37m deep. The pit had shallow sloping edges that were stepped and became steeper towards the centre with an irregular undulating concave base. The fills of [177] consisted of mid brownish-grey sandy silts with a few small pebbles. Re-deposited natural was evident around the western edge of the cut and it is possible this feature represents two inter-cutting pits similar to [188] and [189]. Pottery found in the upper fill of [177] indicates this pit dates to the early Roman period and is contemporary with the enclosures.

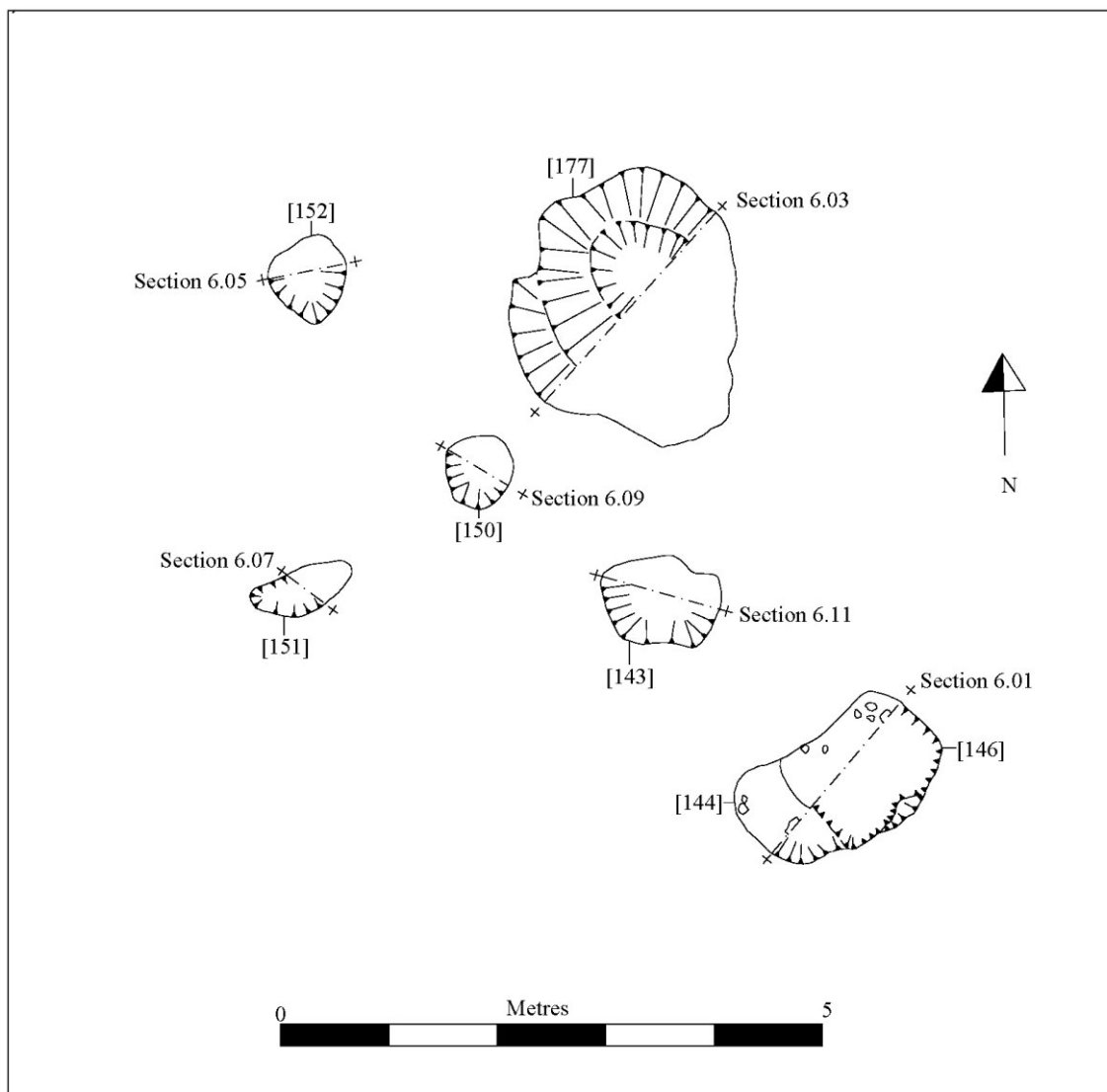


Figure 18: Plan of discrete features in the north (see Figure 7 for location)

To the south of [177] was pit [143], measuring 1.25m long by 0.84m wide and 0.17m deep. This pit was sub-oval in shape with moderate to steeply sloping sides and an undulating concave base. The feature was filled with a friable dark greyish-brown sandy silt, which contained finds such as bone and fuel ash. Environmental sampling of this feature produced evidence for the production of cereals, spelt wheat, glume wheat and barley. South-east of pit [143], two inter-cutting pits [144] and [146] were found during the stripping (see figure 16). The earliest cut was [144] which measured 0.53m long by 1.04m wide and 0.26m deep with the eastern edge being truncated by [146]. The pit was filled with a soft mid greyish-brown

sandy clay with hints of loam and contained several large pieces of limestone and sandstone. No artefacts were found within this feature. Pit [146] measured 1.12m long by 1.24m wide and at 0.65m was much deeper than [144]. Pit [146] was sub-rectangular in shape with steep or near vertical sides and a flat base. Three fills were identified within this pit, the upper was a soft mid greyish-brown sandy loam, that contained artefacts such as animal bone and fuel ash. Additionally large angular ironstone pieces and heated limestone blocks were found within this deposit, which possibly represents a deliberate capping or attempt to consolidate the feature. The secondary fill was composed of a very soft dark brownish-grey sandy loam with orange and red flecks. This fill contained several pieces of degraded limestone, but had no artefacts within it. The primary fill of the pit was also composed of a very soft dark brownish-grey sandy loam, which was distinct from the secondary fill by the absence of red and orange flecks. The soft loamy nature of the fills produced good environmental evidence for farming practices. Like pit [143], this feature included the remains of barley, spelt wheat, glume wheat and cereals, but in a higher quantity. This feature did not contain any pottery, however the artefactual evidence indicates it is probably early Roman in date and contemporary with the ring gully and large enclosure. Several limestone blocks found within the pit were heated on one side, similar to the examples found within the ring gully. These may have been associated with the industrial activity from this period before being used to cap the pit. The fuel ash found within the fill of this pit is typical of the early Roman features across the site.

Three smaller features were found to the west of pit [177] and these may represent either shallow pits or disturbed post-holes. Feature [150] was roughly circular in shape with steep concave sides and a concave base. The cut measured 0.65m long by 0.68m wide and had a depth of 0.18m. The cut was filled with a friable mid greyish-brown sandy silt with inclusions of ironstone. No artefacts were recovered from the fill and it was poorly defined within the surrounding natural. Feature [151] was located to the west of [150] and was found to be a slightly irregular sub-oval shape measuring 0.98m long by 0.4m wide and 0.17m deep. The edges of the cut were steep and the base sloped to the north. The cut was poorly defined and filled with a friable mid orange-brown sandy silt, that contained a tertiary flint flake. To the north, feature [152] was revealed and this was found to be a sub-oval shape with shallow sloping sides and a base that was inclined the west. This cut measured 0.8m long by 0.63m wide by 0.12m deep and was filled with a friable mid orange-brown sandy silt. No artefacts were found within this deposit and similarly to [150] and [151] it was poorly defined. These three small features were all very unclear and difficult to excavate. It is possible that the features represent the bases of shallow pits or post-holes that are contemporary with the surrounding Roman features.

The discrete pits and post-holes revealed in the north of the site were found to be located in a relatively small cluster and the pottery indicates they date to the Roman period. The positioning of these features on the outside of both the ring gully and large enclosure suggests they were contemporary. Features [143] and [146] produced the best environmental evidence and indicate the cultivation of spelt wheat, glume wheat, barley and cereals. Accompanying the evidence for agriculture, the pits also produced plant remains from varieties known to reside in open grass land and heath land, thereby highlighting the nature of the landscape within which the site was located.

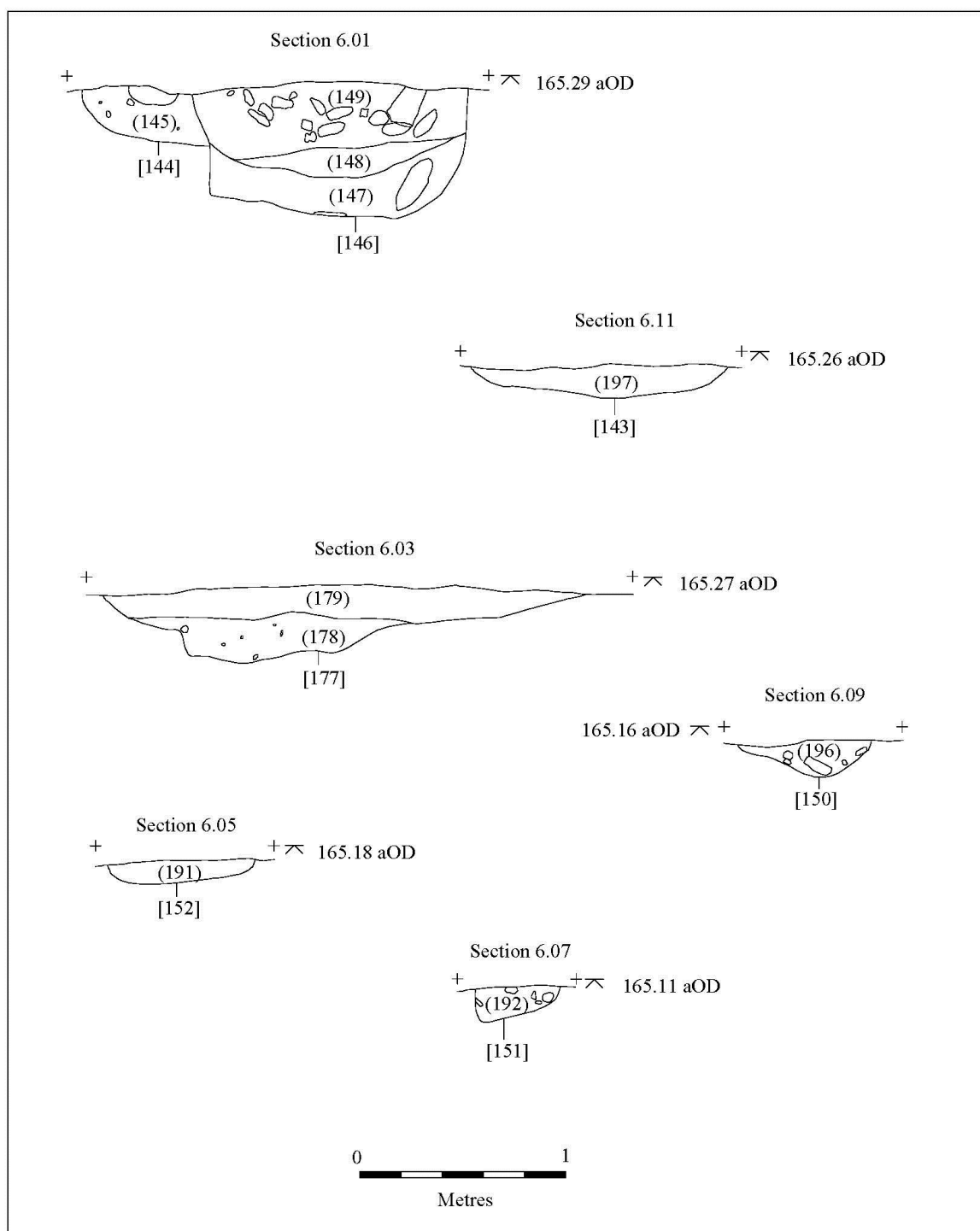


Figure 19: Sections from the discrete features in the north of site.

Discrete Features to the South

To the south of the site, several discrete features were found during the stripping including pits, post-holes and naturally formed disturbance. These features were located in the vicinity of pit [114], which was found in Trench 1 during the evaluation. Close to the south-western edge of the large enclosure, pit [171] was revealed and this measured 1.48m long by 1.04m wide and

0.23m deep. This feature was oval in shape with moderately sloping concave sides, a concave base and was filled with a friable mid orange-brown silty clay. No artefacts were recovered and it is unclear whether this represents a pit or a naturally formed feature such as a tree bowl. South-east of [171] two intercutting pits [167] and [169] were found. Both [167] and [169] were sub-oval in shape with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. Feature [167] measured 1.6m long by 1.10m wide by 0.3m deep and [169] measured 1m long by 0.85m wide by 0.4m deep. The fills of both features were very similar, with [169] being composed of a dark yellow-brown silty sand and [167] being filled by a mid yellow-brown silty sand with clay. No artefacts were recovered from these features and both the fills appeared sterile. Feature [169] appeared to be truncating [167].

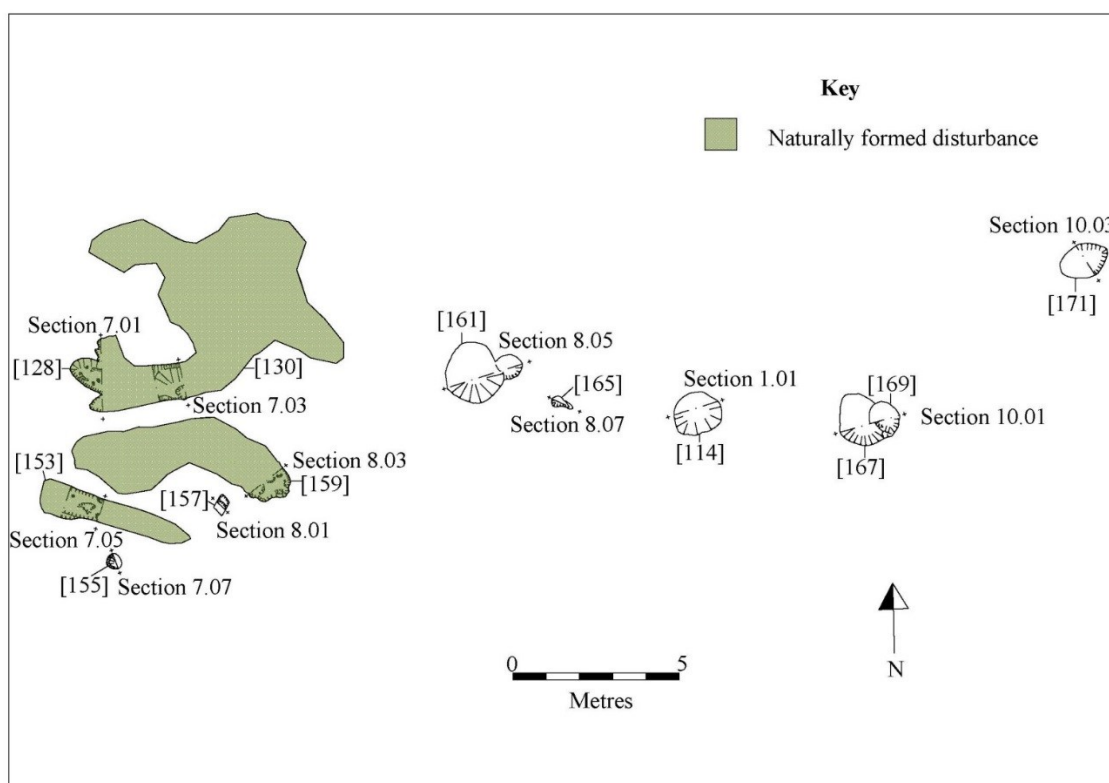


Figure 20: Plan of the discrete features to the south (see Figure 7 for location).

Evaluation Trench 1 contained pit [114] and lay to the west of feature [167]. Pit [114] measured 1.12m long by 1.42m wide and 0.28m deep. It was filled with a dark-grey deposit consisting of silty clay that contained pottery, bone, and fuel ash. The pit dated to the early Roman period and was filled with a relatively large proportion of environmental evidence such as hazel nut shells, spelt wheat, barley and cereals. Despite several other features being revealed in the southern area of site, none of the other deposits were as rich in environmental evidence. Pits [146] and [143] in the northern part of site were the only equivalent to this feature.

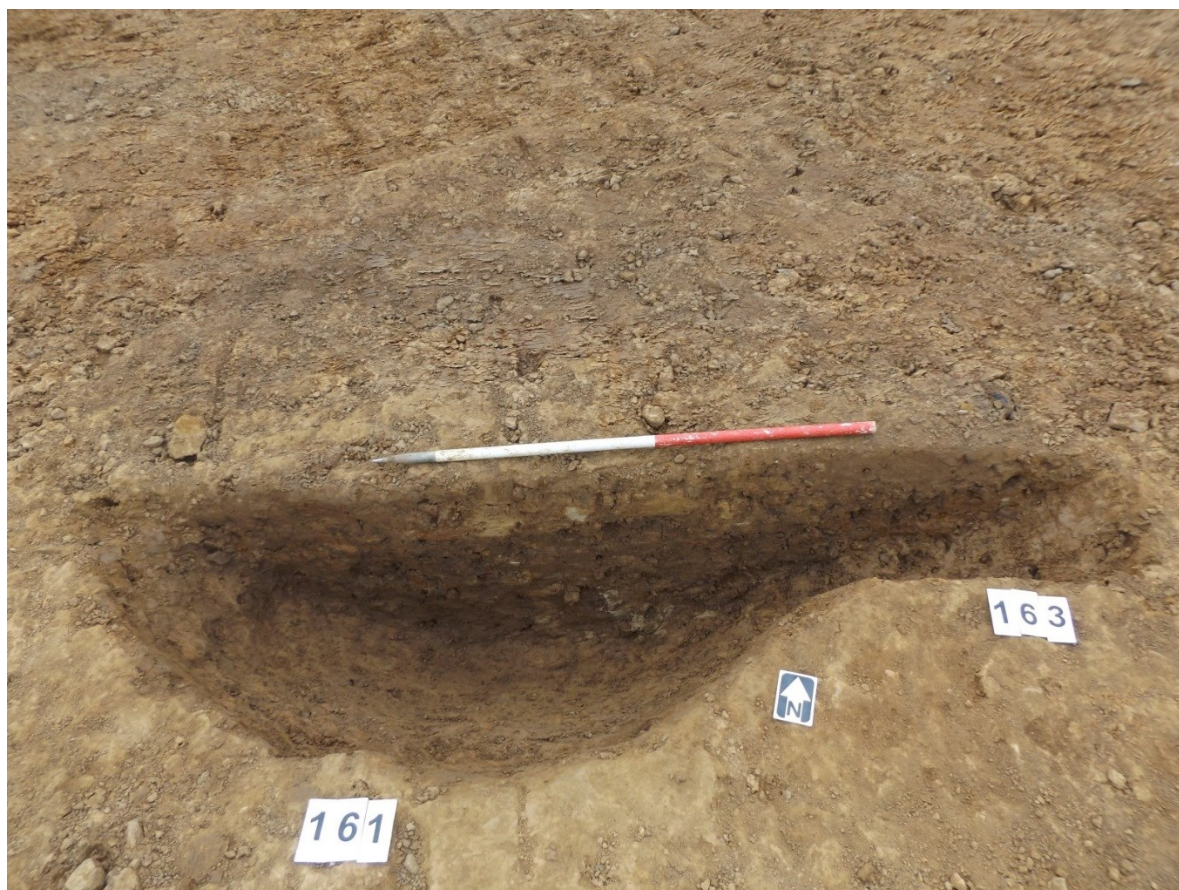


Figure 21: Inter-cutting pits [161] and [163]

On the northern edge of Trench 1, several other features were found during the stripping. [165] was located to the west of pit [114] and appeared to represent a disturbed post-hole. The cut was a sub-oval shape with steep concave edges and a base that was sloping to the north-west. The feature measured 0.7m long by 0.34m wide by 0.16m deep and was filled with a mid greyish-brown sandy silt. No artefacts were found within this deposit and the shape of the feature could have been formed by a post being removed.

Two intercutting pits called [161] and [163] were found to the west of post-hole [165] (see figure 20). Pit [161] was oval in shape with steeply sloping concave sides and a concave base. The feature measured 1.7m long by 1.84m wide by 0.56m deep and was truncated by pit [163] on its eastern edge. Pit [161] was filled with a mid brownish-grey sandy silt that contained many patches of re-deposited clay possibly representing a deliberate backfilling. Fragments of daub and a re-touched flint flake were recovered from the fill. Shallow pit [163] was also oval in shape with moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. The pit was filled with two deposits; a secondary fill composed of a mid greyish-brown sandy silt and a primary fill consisting of mid orange-brown sandy clay similar to the fill of [161]. No artefacts were found from this feature.

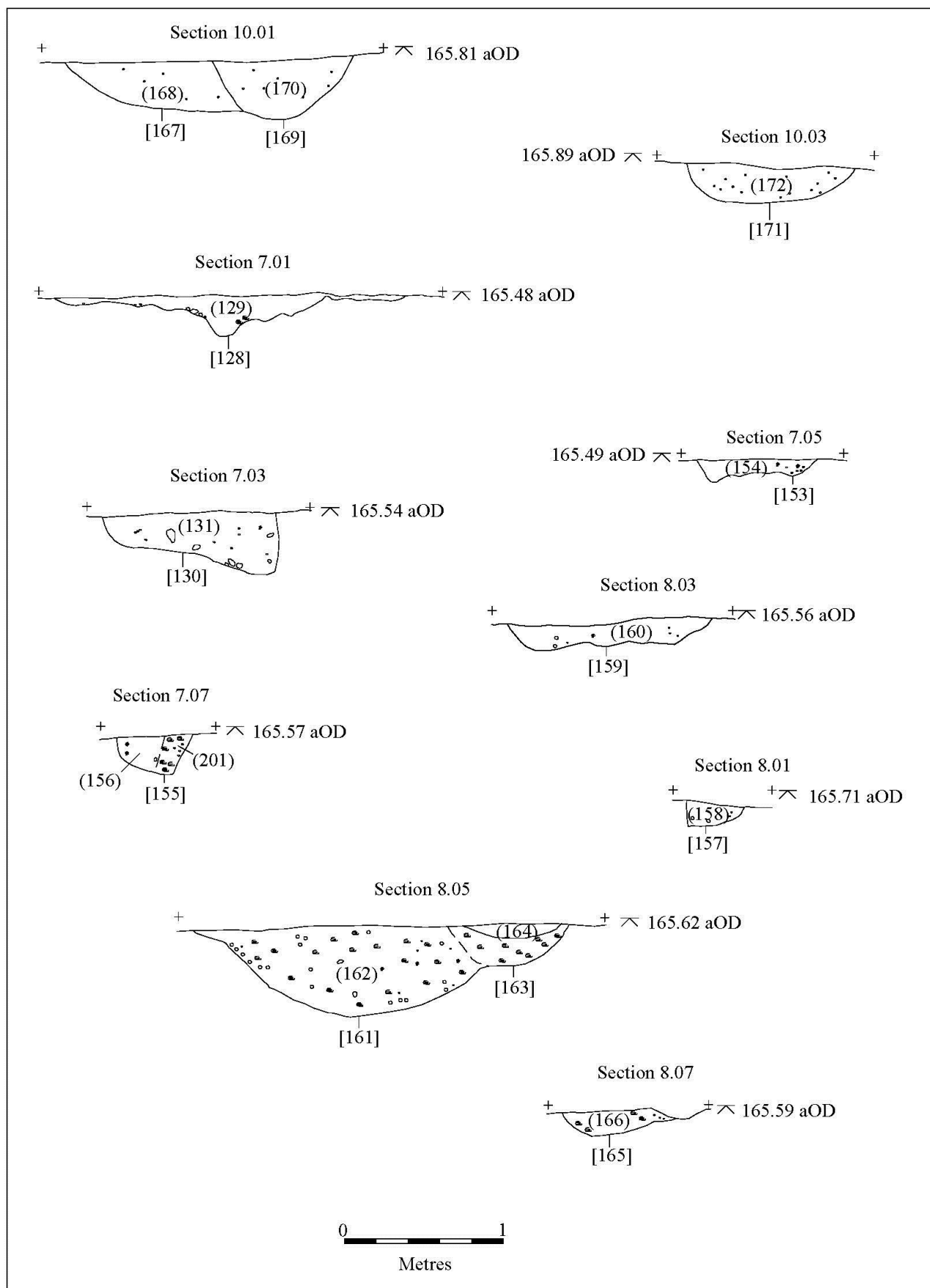


Figure 22: Sections from the discrete features in the south

Two post-holes were also found in the south-west corner of site and may be contemporary with one another. Cut [157] was a sub-rectangular shape with stepped sides that became steeper towards the centre. The post-hole measured 0.46m long by 0.36m wide by 0.16m deep and was filled with a mid greyish-brown sandy clay, which contained no artefacts. The stepped nature of the cut was probably formed by a sharpened post being driven into it. Post-hole [155] was found in the south-western corner of the stripped area and contained two distinct deposits, which probably represents the post pipe and surrounding backfill. The post pipe was composed of a friable dark greyish-brown sandy silt, whereas the surrounding deposit consisted of a mid yellow-brown silty sand with patches of clay. The surrounding deposit contained re-deposited natural clay that probably represents a deliberate backfill.



Figure 23: Post-hole [155] showing the post pipe and surrounding backfill

Several unusual homogeneous amorphous deposits were encountered in the south-western corner of site. Upon stripping the area these deposits were initially thought to represent features such as pits or ditches and the areas which either visibly contained artefacts or had the clearest definition were targeted for excavation. The resulting investigation proved the deposits to be naturally formed and representing disturbance such as tree throws that occasionally had artefacts mixed up within them. Feature [128] initially appeared to be a pit, however when it was excavated it was found to be a very irregular shape that measured 2.57m long by 1.7m wide and a maximum of 0.25m deep. The base was found to be irregular and undulating as was the sides, which closely resembled root action and bioturbation more than a deliberate cut. The fill was composed of a mid yellow-brown sandy silt with ironstone and the occasional fleck of charcoal. The deposits were very homogeneous across all of the irregular features in this area and the fill of [128] had no difference to the fill of [130].



Figure 24: Irregular naturally formed feature [128]

To the east of [128] there appeared to be a linear feature [130], which was initially thought to represent part of a ditch, but upon investigation seemed to be naturally formed. The feature had irregularly sloping sides that varied from a moderate to steep slope and was even slightly undercut at one part. The base of the feature was also irregular and sloped to the south, which gave the appearance of a naturally formed depression more than a deliberate cut. The fill of [130] was identical to [128] and consisted of a friable mid yellow-brown sandy silt with ironstone and a few flecks of charcoal. The deposit at this point was found to contain fragments of bone and fuel ash. The feature measured 1.10m wide by 0.4m deep merging with [128] to the west and shallowing to the east in an incoherent formless shape. Both [128] and [130] were found to be part of a larger amorphous deposit that contained a single fill rather than separate intercutting features. Although artefacts had become incorporated within them, it seems likely that the irregular nature of the feature was the result of natural disturbance such as tree throws. Natural features were identified in this area during the evaluation with two tree bowls being found in Trench 2 ([104] and [106]) located just a few metres to the west.

To the south of [130], another deposit was revealed during the stripping that was initially thought to represent a pit. [159] had irregularly sloping sides with an undulating irregularly sloping base that appeared to be formed through root action. The feature was filled with a mid greyish brown silty sand that was very similar to the fill of [128] and [130]. Subsequent cleaning revealed [159] continued to the north-west and was not a pit, but part of a larger irregularly shaped linear feature. Feature [159] measured 6.8m long by 1.3m wide and 0.17m deep. The fill of [159] contained several small abraded fragments of Iron Age pottery and daub. It is possible the feature represents naturally formed disturbance such as a tree throw that has had artefacts incorporated within it similar to [130]. Feature [153] was located to the

south of [159] and was initially thought to represent a ditch, however investigation showed the deposit was contained within a shallow irregularly shaped depression and not a deliberate cut. The depression measured 6m long by 0.7-1m wide and 0.14m deep. The sides were irregularly sloped as was the base, which was probably formed through root action. This feature was filled with a mid yellow-brown sandy silt that contained a few flecks of charcoal, no artefacts and is probably naturally formed.

The naturally formed depressions in the south-west corner of site all have similar characteristics that aided in their identification. The irregular incoherent shape of the features and their shallow undulating nature (that display evidence of root marks) all increase the probability that they have been formed by a natural process. The fills of these features are all very similar and contained several small heavily abraded fragments of pottery, daub, fuel ash and bone. These finds are consistent with the artefacts recovered from the late Iron Age and early Roman deposits across the site. The depressions are all indicative of vegetation and the subsequent disturbance could have been formed through the felling of trees or general land clearance.

Iron Age and Roman Pottery, and fired clay, from Excavations at Waltham on the Wolds XA14.2016

Nicholas J. Cooper

In addition to the single Iron Age sherd and three of Early Roman date recovered from contexts (111), (115) and (116) during the evaluation (Table 1), a small assemblage (14 sherds) of similar character was recovered during the excavation phase and classified according to the Leicestershire Prehistoric and Roman Pottery fabric Series (Marsden 2011; Pollard 1994) and quantified by sherd count and weight. The full record from both phases of investigation is presented below (Table 1). Additionally, five small amorphous fragments of fired clay (10g), probably debris deriving from the destruction of wattle and daub structures in the vicinity, was recovered from (159) [160], (162) [161] and (185) [184].

Table 1: The pottery assemblage from the evaluation and excavation phases.

Iron Age and Roman Pottery from Waltham XA14.2016						
Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Sherds	Weight	Date
111	110	SW2	body	1	7	M-L1st C
113	112	MG2	body	1	1	M-L1st C
115	114	R1	body	1	4	Iron Age
115	114	SW2	body	1	3	M-L1st C
116	108	SW2	body	1	11	M-L1st C
121	120	MG2	body	2	3	M-L1st C
127	126	SW2	body	1	2	M-L1st C
132	133	Q1	body	1	5	Iron Age
160	159	R1	body	1	2	Iron Age
179	177	MG2	base	8	19	M-L1st C
Total				18	57	Av.sh.wt. 3g

The average sherd weight of just 3g, together with the generally abraded condition of the sherds, indicates that this is secondary rubbish which has accumulated in pit and ditch features

at some distance from the centre of settlement, perhaps following long exposure on the ground surface following manuring of cultivation plots through the dispersal of midden material.

A total of three sherds of Iron-Age date came from (115), (132) and (160), one in the quartz sand tempered fabric (Q1) and two in the granite-tempered fabric (R1), both fabrics typical of material of this date from the north of the county. No scored decoration was apparent on the sherds but given their occurrence alongside Roman pottery of mid-late first century date, it is likely that they date to the Late Iron Age, perhaps as late as the middle decades of the 1st century AD.

All of the Early Roman material occurs in so-called 'transitional' fine sandy ware (SW2) or fine mixed-gritted (MG2) fabrics, the latter containing fine shell and quartz sand. All the material occurs as single undiagnostic body sherds, with the exception of the eight sherds from the base and body of a jar in 'Belgic' style. The impression is that the assemblage was deposited in the decades immediately following the Conquest, perhaps between *c.* AD 50 and 70.

XA14.2016 Lithics

Lynden Cooper

A small collection of later prehistoric worked flint was recovered during the excavations as listed below.

Unstrat	scraper
132	natural, discarded
162	retouched flake
185	concave scraper
187	flake fragment
192	3ry flake
195	natural, discarded

The Animal Bones (X.A.14 2016)

Jennifer Browning

Introduction

This report presents the analysis of the faunal remains which were recovered during archaeological work at Waltham on the Wolds, Leicestershire. A total of 53 animal bone fragments were recovered during hand excavation of features dating from the Transitional (Late Iron Age/Roman) period (N. Cooper pers. comm.). The majority of the bone assemblage was recovered from a single context, (149).

Methodology

Specimens were identified with reference to comparative modern and ancient skeletal material held at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester. A *pro forma* spreadsheet was used for recording data on preservation, taxa, bone element, state of epiphyseal fusion and completeness to elicit information on species proportions, skeletal representation, age and taphonomy. Where possible, the anatomical parts present for each skeletal element were recorded using the 'zones' defined by Serjeantson (1996), with additional zones ascribed to mandibles based on Dobney and Reilly (1988). Surface preservation was assessed after Harland et al (2003). The occurrence of burning, gnawing and pathologies was noted and described. Butchery was recorded using simple coding and description. Joining fragments were

re-assembled and the resulting specimen counted as a single fragment, although a record of the original number of fragments was retained.

Identifiable fragments were considered to be specimens that could be confidently assigned to element and taxon. Undiagnostic shaft and skull fragments were categorised as large or medium mammal, as were incomplete vertebrae and ribs.

Preservation and Taphonomy

The condition of the bones was variable; bones exhibited both old and modern breakage; joining of fragments from the same bone reduced the total from 61 to 53 specimens. The surface condition was assessed following Harland et al (2003). The bones from (149) were better preserved than those from other contexts, which may indicate different burial conditions in this deposit. The bones were generally in a fair condition, indicating that the surface was 'solid in places, but flaky or powdery on up to 49% of the specimen' (Harland et al 2003). A total of 46 specimens were in 'fair' condition, with the remainder either 'good' or 'poor'. Two medium mammal shaft fragments were burnt and a cattle femur was gnawed. Butchery was noted on a large mammal rib fragment from (149) and two undiagnostic fragments were burnt.

Taxa and Carcass Representation

Cattle, sheep/goat, and horse were represented in the assemblage. No fish, birds or small mammal bones were identified. Analysis of carcass representation was not carried out due to the small sample size; however the range of elements identified is listed in table 1.

Age Structure

Analysis of age at death is usually carried out using tooth eruption and wear, supplemented by the state of epiphyseal fusion of post-cranial bones. The sample size here is too small to permit analysis so only a few general comments have been made.

A tooth wear stage of 'c' was recorded for a sheep/goat deciduous 4th premolar (after Grant 1982) and indicated a juvenile animal. There were no age-able teeth for cattle or pig. Only a small number of post-cranial bones with epiphyses were present; two horse long bones were fused and two sheep/goat bones were unfused, indicating immature animals.

Discussion

An assemblage of animal bones was recovered during a small-scale archaeological excavation at Waltham on the Wolds, following earlier trial trenching. The bones derive from transitional features. During the previous work, animal bones were recovered from two pit fills, however the fragments tended to be small and factors such as an abundance of tooth enamel suggested that preservation was poor. Evaluation pit 115 contained several rib fragments (possibly from the same bone), a fragment of vertebra and some shaft /skull fragments, while pit 101 mainly produced teeth. The presence of several adjacent teeth suggests that a cattle maxilla was originally deposited but the connecting bone has since decayed. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig were identified in the evaluation assemblage.

Cattle, sheep/goat and horse were identified in the current assemblage, which was largely recovered from a single context, (149). As was observed during the evaluation, preservation was variable and fairly poor in contexts other than (149), in keeping with observations made observed during the evaluation. No remains from small mammals, amphibians or fish were recovered from the site. The bones therefore constitute a variety of elements from animals associated with domestic occupation; both adult and young animals were present and butchery marks, gnawing and burnt bones were recorded. The small size of the group makes it difficult

to interpret, but it appears to represent generalised occupation waste, rather than suggesting particular activities.

Table 1: List of bone taxon and element arranged by context

	127	131	134	149	197	132	Total
cattle				3			3
femur				1			1
mandible				1			1
molar				1			1
horse		1		1			2
metatarsal				1			1
radius		1					1
sheep/goat				3			3
humerus				1			1
mandible				1			1
scapula				1			1
Total identified							16
medium mml				3	3		6
v thoracic				1			1
shaft fragments				2	3		5
large mammal	1			2		19	22
rib fragment				1			1
shaft fragments	1			1		8	10
skull fragments						11	11
indeterminate	11		6				17
shaft fragments	11		6				17
Total	12	1	6	12	3	19	53

Industrial residues from Waltham on the Wolds XA14.2016

Heidi Addison

The excavation produced a total of 893g of industrial material from 10 contexts: 131, 132, 140, 149, 162, 193, 194, 195 and 197. The assemblage was subject to visual identification as detailed in Table 1 below. The material was weighed by context. The assemblage is summarised by material in Table 2

Results

Table 1: Quantified record of material by context.

Context	Weight (g)	Description
131	3	Fuel ash slag-vesicular
132	158	Fuel ash slag-vesicular
140	4	Fuel ash slag-vesicular
149	369 30	Fuel ash slag-vesicular Vitrified hearth lining with fuel glazing
162	12	Fuel ash slag-vesicular
193	53	Fuel ash slag-vesicular
194	4	Fuel ash slag-vesicular
195	212	Fuel ash slag-vesicular

197	48	Vitrified hearth lining with fuel glazing
Total	893	

Table 2: Quantified list by material

Fuel ash slag	815g
Hearth lining	78g

Overview and Discussion

The material from the excavation mostly consists of vesicular fuel ash slag (815g) from eight of the contexts listed above. Context (149) yielded the largest amount (369g) of fuel ash slag together with one of two fragments (30g) of vitrified hearth lining with a fuel ash glazing, the other from context (197) weighing 48g. This evidence builds on the small assemblage from the evaluation where the mid-late 1st century pit [114] (115) contained two small lumps of natural ironstone (91g) with possible signs of partial roasting, a small fragment of hearth lining (22g), and two fragments of vesicular fuel ash (16g). Three fragments of vesicular fuel ash (193g) also came from (118). Whilst the fuel ash assemblage and hearth lining from both phases of investigation indicate high temperature activity where fuel and silicate material have reacted, there is, however, no clear evidence to support any iron working activity.

The charred plant remains from Waltham on the Wolds, Leicestershire (Accession XA14.2016)

Rachel Small

Introduction

This report presents the study of the charred plant remains recovered from environmental samples taken during an excavation at Waltham on the Wolds, Leicestershire. Five samples were taken from gully fills and pit fills dating from the late Iron Age to Early Roman period. Plant remains, which may include cereal grains, chaff, and weed seeds, provide evidence for past food production, consumption, agricultural practices and environment.

Method

One part of each sample (eight to ten litres in volume) was processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were transferred into plastic boxes and left to air dry; they were then sorted for plant remains using a x10-40 stereo microscope. The residues were also air dried and the fractions over 4mm sorted for all finds. The fractions under 4mm were re-floated and sorted under the microscope to ensure all plant remains were recovered.

Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and names follow Stace (1991). Plant remains were counted: each whole grain and grain fragments which included the embryo were counted as one; for chaff, each glume base and rachis internode was counted as one; and for seeds, each fragment was counted as one. Van der Veen's (2007) ratios, which compare the proportions of the remains, were calculated when over 25 items were present.

Results

All five samples contained charred plant remains: grains, chaff and weed seeds (table 1). The density of remains was higher in samples 5 (149), 6 (147) and 7 (197) which were pit fills

and it was possible to calculate ratios for these samples. The results will be presented as follows: firstly, a note on preservation will be made, then the species present and finally the proportions of the remains discussed.

Table 1: plant remains present in samples (results for flot, coarse and fine fraction combined).

Sample	3	5	6	7	8	
Context	132	149	147	197	121	
Cut	133	146	146	143	120	
Feature description	Rin g gull y fill	Thir d fill of pit [146]	Firs t fill of pit [146]	Pit fill	Gull y fill	
Grain						
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	2	1	3	1		Barley
<i>Triticum</i> sp. glume wheat		3	5	4	1	Glume wheat
Cereal		7	6	6		Cereal
Chaff						
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. rachis				1		Barley rachis
<i>Triticum spelta</i> L. glume base		27	28	2	1	Spelt wheat glume base
<i>Triticum</i> sp. glume base		24	63	22	2	Spelt/Emmer wheat glume base
Culm node			2			Culm node
Seeds						
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.		1	2			Goosefoot
cf. <i>Danthonia decumbens</i> L.			1			Heath grass
<i>Rumex</i> sp.		3	5			Dock
<i>Vicia</i> sp.		1	4	2		Vetch
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>			1			Vetch/Vetchling
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.				1		Knotgrass
Medicago/Melilotus/Trifolium			1			Medick/Melilot/Clover
Large poaceae		13	20	9	2	Large grass seed
Small poaceae			1	2	1	Small grass seed
Indet.		2	15			Indeterminate
TOTAL	2	82	157	50	7	
LITRES	10	10	10	8	10	
ITEMS PER LITRE	0.2	8.2	15.7	6.25	0.7	

Preservation

Many of the cereal grains, glume bases and seeds had abraded surfaces which hindered identification. Many of the cereal grains were also puffed from burning at high temperatures.

Grain

Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) and glume wheat (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum* L.) grains were present. The number of grains was too small to determine the relative importance of the different species.

Chaff

Triticum spp. (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*, L.) glume bases were most abundant. It was possible to identify some as spelt wheat due to the characteristic veins. A piece of barley rachis was also identified. Two large cereal/grass culm nodes were present.

Seeds

Common weeds of agricultural and disturbed lands were identified and included goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.), dock (*Rumex* spp.) and knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare* L.). Heath grass (*Danthonia decumbens* L.) was also present and is thought to have been associated with arid cultivation in the past (Hillman 1982, 1).

Ratios

The ratio of *Triticum* spp. glume bases to glume wheat grains was calculated (table 2) for samples 5 (149), 6 (147) and 7 (197). A ratio higher than one indicates a preponderance of glume bases and a ratio lower than one a preponderance of grain. All values were higher than one suggesting there were more glume bases. This composition is typical of waste from fine-sieving, a later stage in the processing of glume wheat grains for consumption.

Table 2: calculations for the ratio *Triticum* spp. glume bases to grain. Indeterminate grains were split according to the proportion of identified grains in the sample and included in the ratio.

Sample	5	6	7
Context	149	147	197
Cut	146	146	143
Proportion of cereal indent. grains	5	4	5
Total grains (<i>Triticum</i> sp. and cereal indent.)	8	9	9
Total glume bases	51	91	24
Glume bases/grains	6.2	10.4	2.7

Discussion

Spelt wheat was the dominant crop at the site with barley present but in a smaller quantity. Possible round free-threshing wheat grains (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* L.) were identified in the evaluation. Small numbers of free-threshing wheat grains have been found at Late Iron Age/Early Roman sites in the East Midlands. However, this cereal does not become the

dominant crop until the Anglo-Saxon period (Monckton 2006). Hazelnut shell was also identified in the evaluation suggesting the collection/consumption of wild resources.

In Late Iron Age/Early Roman settlements small amounts of grain would have been taken out of storage on a day-to-day basis and prepared for consumption. A standard process was followed for glume wheats and involved parching and pounding to free the grain from the chaff; then winnowing, coarse and fine sieving to remove light chaff, large weed seeds, and glume bases and small weeds respectively. Finally hand sorting would have removed any weed seeds similar in size to the grain (Monckton and Hill 2011, 130).

The pit samples analysed, samples 5 (149), 6 (147) and 7 (197) had a high proportion of spelt wheat glume bases. This is a typical of waste from fine-sieving, a later stage in the processing of the cereal for consumption. Sample 1 (115) which was also a pit fill analysed in the evaluation, had a similar composition. The chaff may have been subsequently used on a fire, acting as good tinder. Hearth cleanings would have been formally deposited in features such as pits. Ash from the fire would also have formed a general scatter across the site accumulating on surfaces and in open features such as gullies. This may account for the lower number of items per litre in samples 3 (132) and 8 (121) and 2 (118) from the evaluation.

The maximum density of remains for the site (number of items per litre of soil for the best sample) was 15.7. Compared to other sites in Leicestershire this falls into the middle of the range (6-49 items per litre of soil). A site with a similar density is Ashby By-pass with 12.6 items per litre (Monckton 2011, 134).

Indications of the environment surrounding the site were gleaned from the weed seeds. Agricultural land was in the vicinity perhaps suggesting the cereals were grown in the immediate area. The presence of heath grass suggests that use of the ard plough in cultivation. Hazelnut shells which were found in the evaluation suggest the presence of woodland, scrub or hedgerow nearby.

Discussion and Conclusions

The features and artefacts from Waltham on the wolds suggest the activity on the site dated from the late Iron Age to early Roman period. The settlement consisted of two enclosures and several pits that were dug on the outside of them. Additionally several fragmentary gullies projecting off the large enclosure along an east to west orientation were found. The gullies do not enter the enclosures and appear to be respecting them as a boundary. These features may represent the remains of a contemporary field system and the presence of heath grass in the environmental samples suggests an ard plough was used for cultivation. The best evidence for the crops being cultivated in the area came from pits [114], [146] and [143]. These features produced the best environmental evidence and shows people were cultivating spelt wheat, glume wheat, barley and cereals. Pit [114] found during the evaluation additionally showed that hazel nuts were being gathered during this period. The environmental data shows that whilst plants such as cereals, barley and spelt wheat were being cultivated on the site, the local environment consisted of open grassland with some hedgerows, woodland or scrub nearby. The naturally formed disturbance in the south-western corner of site is indicative of tree throws or vegetation, which could be the result of land clearance during this period. The identifiable faunal remains show that cattle, sheep/goat and pigs were present, which are all animals associated with domestic occupation.

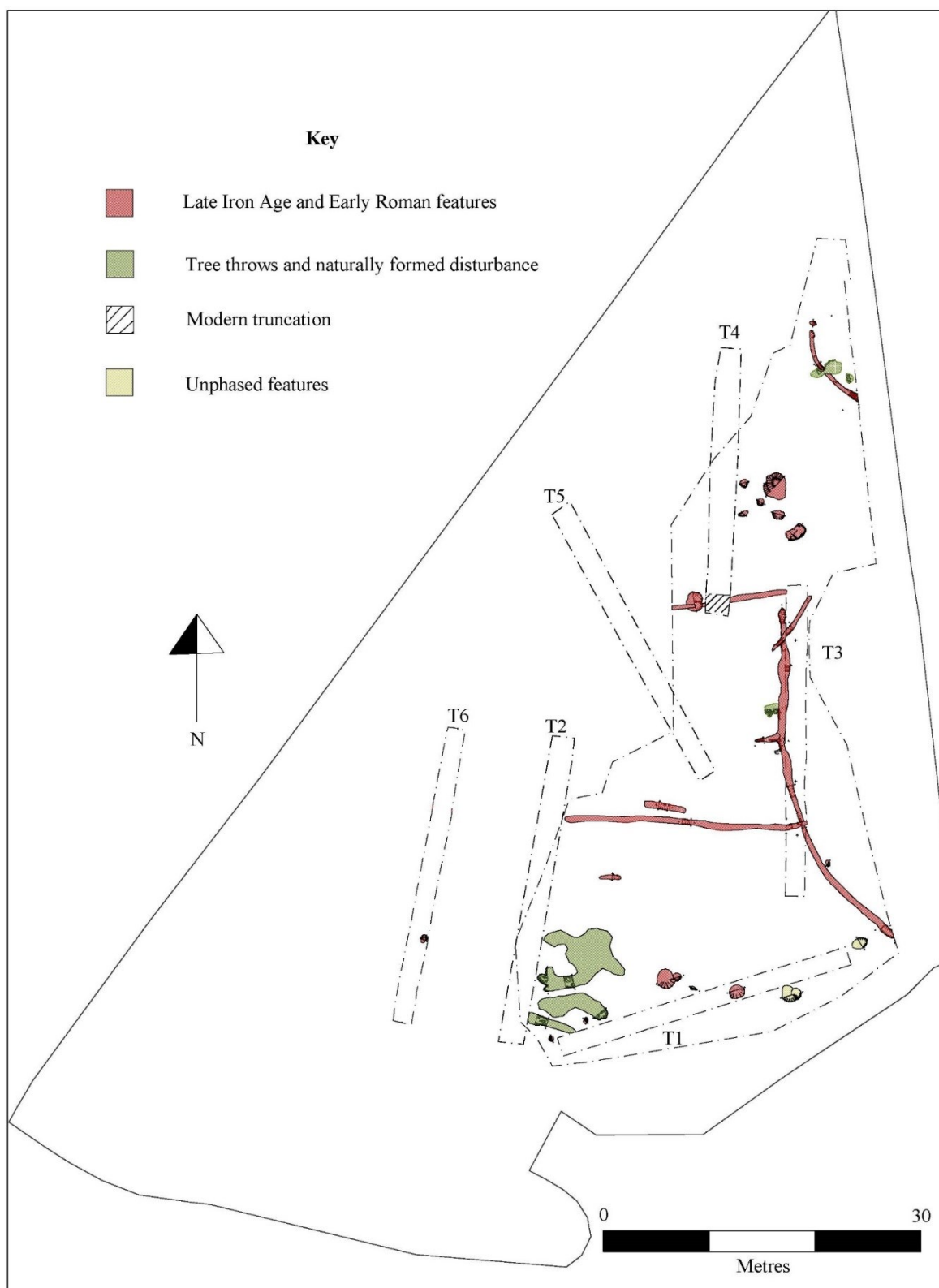


Figure 25: Phasing of site

Many of the features were found to contain evidence for industrial activity in the form of waste materials, specifically a large amount of vesicular fuel ash. During the evaluation a small piece of hearth lining and some partially roasted ironstone were also found. This indicates small scale industrial activity was occurring within the locality. Other evidence that could be

associated with industrial activity comes from several large pieces of limestone, which had been heated on one side and were found within the ring gully and pits in the north of site.

The evidence from the site indicates the settlement is probably a small farmstead, which also undertook small-scale industrial activity. The beginning of the settlement was shown to have its origins in the late Iron Age with fragments of pottery from this period being recovered from pit [114] and the ring gully in the north. These artefacts represent the earliest pottery found on site and could represent the beginning of the settlement. There is evidence that existing features were being modified at a later date, such as the ring gully in the north being re-cut and extended. Additionally the north-western edge of the large enclosure may represent a series of earlier pits that were subsequently joined together and extended to the south-east. It is therefore possible that the settlement began during the late Iron Age, but was subsequently expanded and modified during the early Roman period. The settlement is located relatively close to King Street Roman road, which is a prominent contemporary feature within the surrounding landscape.

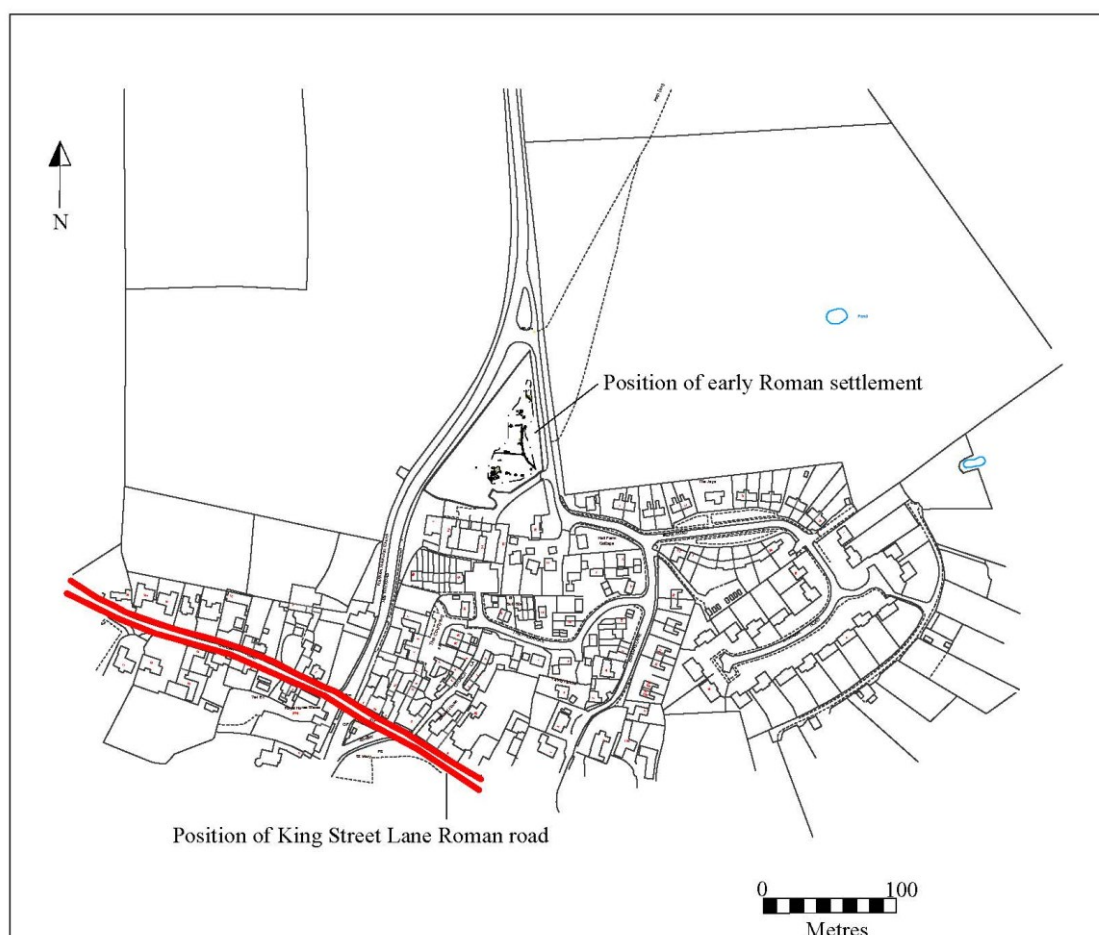


Figure 26: Overview of the site in relation to the Roman road.

The final activity found on the site consisted of post-medieval tree throws and natural disturbance that was prominent near the eastern edge of site. These were found to be disturbing the Roman contexts and are probably contemporary with the existing large trees that are positioned around the edge of site. The subsoil from this area was found to contain modern pancheon ware pottery, which is also indicative of post-medieval activity.

The site at Waltham on the Wolds appears to be on the fringes of a small farmstead, which began during the late Iron Age and transitioned into the early Roman period. The excavation is the first site from this period to be identified within the village and the information gathered could aid in the understanding of the late Iron Age to early Roman transition within the area.

Archive and Publications

The site archive consisting of paper and photographic records, will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service.

The paper archive consists of:

- 10 Sheets of Permatrace Graph paper
- 91 Context Sheets
- 3 ULAS Context Summary Record
- 1 ULAS Drawing Index
- 1 ULAS Drawing Records Form
- 1 ULAS Sample Records Form
- 2 ULAS Photo Index forms
- 6 ULAS Trench Recording Sheets
- 2 Copy of the WSI
- 1 CD of Report copy and Photographs

Publication

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

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Oasis Information

Project Name	An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample For Land to the Rear of Hall Farm, Mere Road, Waltham on the Wolds, Leicestershire, LE14 4AN
Project Type	Strip, Map and Sample Excavation
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Richard Huxley
Previous/Future work	Evaluation
Current Land Use	Open grass land
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	As condition
Position in the Planning Process	Awaiting consent
Site Co ordinates	SK 803 252
Start/end dates of field work	08/03/2016 to 24/03/2016
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire Museum Service
Study Area	0.45ha

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Appendix I

The Trench Data from the Field Evaluation

Trench 1

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. Depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)				
30	1.8	54	0.48	0.87				
Interval (m) from East end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	To West end
Modern topsoil depth	0.11	0.18	None	None	None	None	None	
Made ground depth	0.29	0.15	None	0.1	None	0.12	0.28	
Subsoil depth	0.2	0.17	0.32	0.42	0.32	0.2	0.38	
Top of Natural	0.6	0.5	0.32	0.52	0.32	0.32	0.66	
Base of trench	0.8	0.87	0.45	0.52	0.57	0.48	0.7	

Trench 2

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. Depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)				
30	1.8	54	0.51	0.74				
Interval (m) from South end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	To North end
Modern topsoil depth	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	
Made ground depth	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	
Old topsoil depth	0.1	0.16	0.1	0.09	0.08	0.04	0.08	
Subsoil depth	0.33	0.2	0.24	0.26	0.23	0.28	0.32	
Top of Natural	0.43	0.36	0.34	0.35	0.31	0.32	0.4	
Base of trench	0.59	0.74	0.44	0.54	0.52	0.53	0.51	

Trench 3

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. Depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)				
30	1.8	54	0.61	0.93				
Interval (m) from South end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	To North end
Modern topsoil depth	0.11	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.18	0.43	None	
Made ground depth	0.07	0.25	0.18	0.22	0.3	0.16	None	
Old topsoil depth	None	None	None	None	None	None	0.34	
Subsoil depth	0.23	0.4	0.3	0.35	0.5	0.33	0.27	
Top of Natural	0.41	0.75	0.58	0.77	0.9	0.92	0.61	
Base of trench	0.61	0.85	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.93	0.77	

Trench 4

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. Depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)				
30	1.8	54	0.47	0.84				
Interval (m) from South end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	To North end
Modern topsoil depth	0.1	None	None	None	None	None	None	
Made ground depth	0.16	None	None	None	None	None	None	
Old topsoil depth	0.13	0.1	0.2	0.18	0.28	0.25	0.22	
Subsoil depth	0.35	0.22	0.38	0.26	0.4	0.28	0.22	
Top of Natural	0.64	0.32	0.58	0.44	0.68	0.53	0.44	
Base of trench	0.84	0.47	0.8	0.69	0.7	0.6	0.52	

Trench 5

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. Depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)				
30	1.8	54	0.55	0.96				
Interval (m) from South-east end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	To North-west end
Modern topsoil depth	0.13	None	None	None	None	None	None	
Made ground depth	0.3	0.3	0.37	None	None	None	None	
Old topsoil depth	0.25	0.26	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.25	
Subsoil depth	0.23	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.25	0.2	0.34	
Top of Natural	0.91	0.96	0.87	0.6	0.55	0.4	0.59	
Base of trench	0.91	0.96	0.87	0.73	0.61	0.55	0.59	

Trench 6

Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. Depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)				
30	1.8	54	0.67	1.12				
Interval (m) from South-west end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	To North-east end
Modern topsoil depth	None	None	None	0.2	0.23	0.3	0.46	
Made ground depth	None	None	None	0.09	0.11	0.07	None	
Old topsoil depth	0.06	0.12	0.16	0.1	0.18	0.15	0.25	
Subsoil depth	0.38	0.48	0.42	0.39	0.44	0.53	0.29	
Top of Natural	0.44	0.6	0.58	0.78	0.96	0.95	1	
Base of trench	0.74	0.67	0.8	0.98	1.06	1.12	1.09	

Plates



Plate 1: Tree throw [199] disturbing the western edge of the ring gully [133].



Plate 2: Tree bowl [142] being truncated by large enclosure [141]

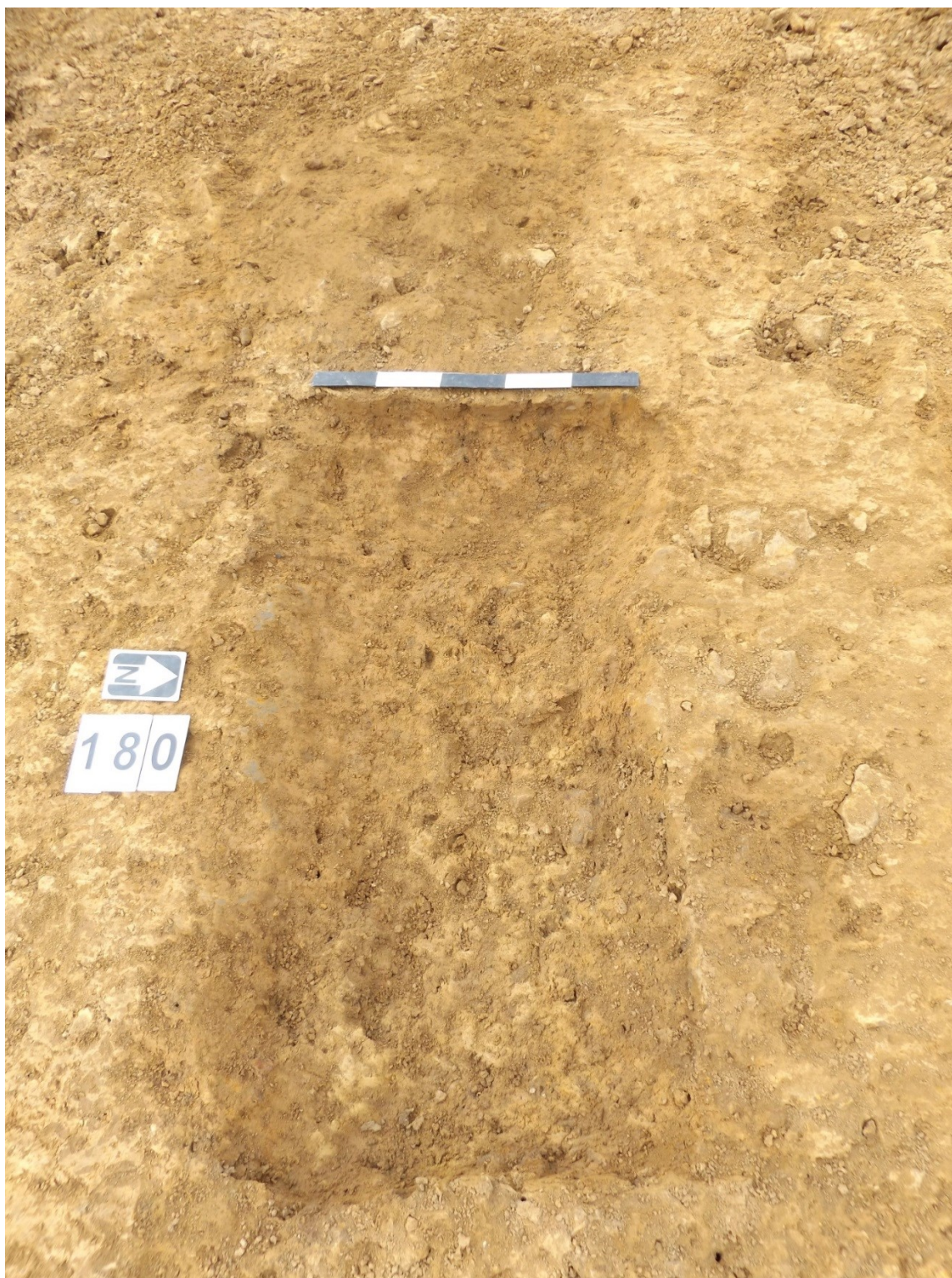


Plate 3: Shallow plough scar or furrow

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